

# TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**JANUARY 13, 2022**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Fred Janci Mayor,  
Sandie Puchalski, Vice Mayor  
Robert Williams,  
Robert Bilicki,  
Stephen Joseph  
Glenn Schagelin,  
Margo Digan

**I. Town Council Meeting**

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Councilman Glen Schagelin prayed.  
Pledge of Allegiance

## TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

- Mayor Fred Janci called the meeting to order.

**I. Public comments**

Mayor Fred Janci asked for public comments. There were none.

**II. Town Council Meeting**

- December 9<sup>th</sup> 2021, minutes were reviewed. Councilman Bob motioned to accept the minutes after amended for December 9<sup>th</sup>. Vice Mayor 2<sup>nded</sup> the motion, all agreed.

**III. Review of Financial Report**

- Mayor Fred Janci asked to review the town budget.  
Councilman Schagelin questioned the grant. He asked when we had to use the money by.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki stated we would be getting another check for \$89,424.28 June of this year  
Mayor Fred Janci said we would discuss this more when we were on the HRSD topic.

Councilman Bob Williams motioned to except the financials.  
Councilman Margo Digan 2<sup>nded</sup>.  
All Agreed.

- Mayor Fred Janci asked to review the marina financials.  
Vice Mayor Sandie said lease renewal will going out in February.  
That is where the bulk of the fees come from.

Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to accept the marina financials.

Councilman Bob Williams 2<sup>nd</sup>ed.

All agreed.

#### **IV. Unfinished Business**

##### **A. Ordinance**

Councilman Bob Williams spoke at the last meeting about ordinances, two in specific, tethering of dogs and the noise ordinance.

Vice Mayor Puchalski reported a case where a resident took another a neighbor to court over issues with his/her dog. It was thrown out of court. Vice Mayor Sandie stated the email was unclear as to exactly why. She wasn't clear if it was because it was a town ordinance and it wasn't enforceable, or if it hadn't been updated. She spoke with Spencer Morgan. He said she should speak with a police officer. His suggestion was Captain Wright. Vice Mayor stated she called him and was waiting for a response. She said the big question was, when it comes to an ordinance for the town, that needs a law enforcement agent to act on, is it enforceable.

The council got into a discussion, and it was decided that more research was needed to see if the town should do a blanket ordinance for ones that the council would not be able to enforce.

Vice Mayor Sandie spoke of a blanket ordinance that was adopted in 2002. It stated that anything not covered under the towns' ordinance would be adopted and covered by the counties.

Councilman Bob Williams stated that council should decide on these issues in our next workshop.

Vice Mayor Sandy replied that we need to see what additional information we can get prior to our meeting.

Councilman Margo Digan said she would call the Accomac Clerk to see what information she could get.

##### **B. Grants**

- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated the HRSD/Hotel Grant has been completed. 100% report has been received from Rob Duma and the other report regarding the hotel. He said there will be other grants coming regarding HRSD.

Mayor Janci stated that the CARES grant has been closed out.

He said we made a commitment to Delegate Rob Bloxom that we would use the ARPA grant towards the HRSD project. Delegate Bloxom said the town needs to have some "skin" in the game.

Mayor Janci reported he was contacted by Delegate Bloxom who inquired what the minimum amount the town would need. Bloxom stated that the budget is \$500,000.00 under funded.

Mayor Fred Janci gave him the figure of \$2,700,000.00. Delegate Bloxom told Mayor Janci he had a number that VIMS may come up with. Mayor Janci hoped that that we may be able to knock our request down to \$2,200,000.00.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated there are people on Brooklyn that may want to hook up to the sewer.

They would need to pay for the hookup and their own grinder pump.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that Rob Duma said we should strive for \$3,600,000.00 in case something would come up. He said the \$2,600,000.00-\$2,700,000.00 is the bare bones amount or least amount needed.

Mayor Fred Janci said the A-NPCD needs to look in another direction for funding in case the route we are looking comes up short or falls through. He stated Delegate Rob Bloxom is looking toward the legislature.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that A-NPDC is looking at DDQ for funding. The DDQ has \$75,000,000.00 to use toward septic, sewer collection and street pipe.

Councilman Bob Williams stated that Rob Duma said his company could help with finding grant money.

Councilman Bob Williams suggested that this could be another source of finding funds.

Mayor Janci stated if we use them we will have to pay them a retaining fee.

### **C. HRSD**

Councilman Bob Bilicki read an email that was sent to Dr. Snyder of VIMS from the Chesapeake Bay Commission. They were asking VIMS for how is the proposed \$33,600,000 waste water needs funding from Governor Northam budget being used.

Councilman Bob Bilicki and Rob Duma wrote a letter together of response. The letter stated that the funds would be used for draft and consideration, construction of centralized sewer system for commercial waterfront properties and VIMS campus. It would be applied towards relieving failing and potential failing on-site septic systems. The sewer will be collected and transmitted to a centralized pumping station. From there it will be pumped to Onancock's Waste Water Treatment Plant (an enhanced nitrate removal plant) owned by HRSD. Councilman Bob Bilicki stated this will be his response with the council approval. There were no objections.

### **D. Marina**

- Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said she needs councils approval for spending \$759.80 to purchase 8, 24 foot treated submergible long boards for the marina. They are \$60.00 apiece and would be purchased from Coastal Wood Inc. This price includes the company cutting them in half.

Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to approve \$800.00 spending for the Wachapreague Marina.  
Councilman Bob Williams 2<sup>nd</sup>ed.  
All Agreed.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said that it is time for dredging the marina. She stated she wrote a letter requesting money from the VPA. The permits, material, gravel for pipe, project manager and miscellaneous. Is expected to be \$66,000. This will not take place until next year. (V.M. Sandie stated dredging takes place every three years) She said this only covers the marina. The coastguard and other marina is welcome to be dredged also. They pay for their own dredging.

Vice Mayor Sandie stated that the VPA grant covers 75% of the dredging.

Councilman Glen Schagelin motioned to approve the grant request.  
Councilman Margo 2<sup>nd</sup>ed.  
All agreed

### **E. Town Maintenance**

- Councilman Glenn Schagelin said everything was fine.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki asked if the guys were going to clean up the sea oars.
- Mayor Janci stated that minimum wage had been raised to \$11.00 an hour. He stated that John would be getting a raise to bring him up to minimum wage.

### **F. Powell Park**

- Vice Mayor Sandie is planning to replace the chains on the swings. She used coated chains from Amazon. The cost was under \$300.00. She said there is \$1000.00 in reserves to use for the park. VM Puchalski reported that the little steam shovel is broken and she is looking to replace it. She also stated there are plans to clean up around a fence, and Mr. McMurry said he would allow them to use his cherry picker. Steve Judge inquired about the nets in the tennis court  
Councilman Bob Bilicki suggested power washing some of the playground equipment as needed this spring.  
Councilman Bob Williams asked about a sign at the park. He suggested repairs as required.

Councilman Margo inquired about the sign at the concession stand.

Mayor Fred spoke about another sign, The Welcome to Wachapreague Sign and said that we should take a look at all three signs.

Mayor Fred Janci stated there was a meeting in town hall regarding the easement and Donald Motto.

He said he spoke with Attorney David Rowan regarding the information received about the right of way that connects Mottos two properties. He stated that Rowan said none of the paperwork held any water. David Rowan said to throw it back to Donald and he needs to go to his title people and get something official.

Rowan stated google map doesn't count, he also stated that the county maps are incorrect. If it is a deeded right- away, it will be stated in his deed. Motto needs to show a deed with that stated before the town will proceed with further action of adding a gate.

### **G. Seaside Park**

Councilmen Margo spoke about the hand -out in the packet she had prepared regarding bids for maintenance for Seaside Park.

Councilman Stephen Joseph thought the work order should be more specific, it needs to be a little more narrative. He said you should get together with whomever is doing the job and get a job description from them.

Mayor Fred said they will be two guys that have day with nothing to do.

Council Margo stated we said we will do this if it is feasible at budget time.

Vice mayor said our guys can take care of the marina and the dog park.

Councilman Margo said they need to weed -whack the dog park.

Councilman Steve Joseph said I understood this was a feasibility study, and I thought they were also doing a feasibility on trash removal for the town.

Vice Mayor said she thought the trash removal should be the main concern. If we get a different trash company, it will give the maintenance guy an extra day to do the mowing at Seaside.

Councilman Glen Schagelin said he will get trash pricing for two cans per person.

### **H. Beautification**

- Councilman Bob Bilicki offered his time and money to reseed town hall. He said his brother-in- law from Norfolk has St. Augustine grass. He stated March and April are the best months to plant plugs.  
Councilman Bob said he will include edging.

Councilman Margo requested the guys not blow the grass on the rocks when they mow.

Councilman Bob Bilicki spoke about the Christmas lights. He said our lights are not up to code.

Vice Mayor Sandie said the fire company ask that we replace the lights.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said my budget for tourism may be higher this year, and I will do research regarding lights.

Councilman Glenn suggested we ask for donations from the town to keep the lights up.

### **I. Tourism**

- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that The Nature Conservatory were inquiring about the Bird watching station.  
Councilman Bilicki said it is the goal to have the platform built and open by October 2022.
- Councilman Bob Bilicki said that Brian Collins, the fire company, and he are still planning a spring fling, in April or May of this year. They want to include live bands playing on the carnival grounds.  
Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski suggested coordinating the dates with the flounder tournament. She thought this could help the turnout.

- Councilman Margo Digan asked if the town does anything for Memorial Day.
- Mayor Fred Janci didn't think we did. Neither did Vice Mayor Sandie.
- Councilman Bilicki reported that Donna Bozza and Merriweather Pain asked Councilman Bob if the town would be interested in being the headquarters for the CB's ride. They have approximately 900 to 1000 rider. This event takes place last weekend in October.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki thought we had enough in the town budget to donate \$2000.00 to be the headquarters. He thought the town would make extra money on the food and hotel revenue. Councilman Bob Bilicki said that Blake suggested putting a headquarters tent up in Seaside Park. Councilman Bilicki stated that Blake suggested selling tickets to an after- party event. This would increase Blake's revenue. Wardius said he would have two days' rental which would increase the money that they bring in. The town would benefit from the meals' tax and the transient tax on the rentals.  
Councilman Stephen Joseph stated that CB'S stands for Citizens for a better Eastern Shore.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki said he would like to see if VIMS would open that weekend for tours.  
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned we donate \$2,000.00 to the CB'S and be the headquarters in 2022.  
Councilman Stephen Joseph 2<sup>nd</sup>ed.

All agreed.

A roll count was taken

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski –	yes
Councilman Bob Williams --	yes
Councilman Margo Digan --	yes
Councilman Steve Joseph --	yes
Councilman Glenn Schagelin --	yes
Councilman Bob Bilicki --	yes

Councilman Stephan Joseph asked about raising the meals' tax.

Mayor Fred Janci said we will bring that up next meeting as new business.

#### J. Derelict Properties

- Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that there is progress being made at the old Buddy Barnes property. He reported that the only other property on radar is Patricia Braggs. Councilman Bob Bilicki suggested we write a letter to Patricia to determine what she is planning to do with her property. He stated the Normans' home does have windows.

Councilman Bob Bilicki said Mayor Fred had asked him to step down from the Vodvarka's properties.

Councilman Stephen Joseph spoke about the three trailers that still need to be moved.

There was discussion among the council regarding FEMA as to whether they should be contacted regarding this matter.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that FEMA said it is the town's responsibility.

Councilman Bob Williams said the trailers need to be moved every six month.

The council asked a letter be sent to the Vodvarka's regarding FEMAs regulation.

Councilman Bob Williams said if they don't comply, a letter should be sent by Vodvarka's attorney.

#### K. Safety and Security

- Councilman Bob Williams stated, "be safe. The Covid numbers are very high. "

#### L. Zoning

- Mayor Janci said he had nothing to report.

### **M. Streets and Drainage**

- Councilman Bob Williams said this would be a great time of year to vacuum out the ditches. Councilman Glen Schagelin asked if they can do the pipe under driveways too. Councilman Bob Williams said there is a tool that can be purchased to do that. Council spoke about their frustration of the vac not being used enough. Councilman Glen Schagelin stated that the maintenance guys said the ditches were too wet to do the sea oars. That is the reason they have for not been using the leaf vacuum. A councilman inquired about all the bags in the truck. Charlie responded that a neighbor left enough bags of leaves to fill up the brush truck. John McDermott and she had noticed them along the curb and were amazed that there were that many bags of leaves. Mayor Fred Janci asked how many loads the guys took out of town when John Carr's trees came down. He stated that there is a limit to what the maintenance guys will pick up but the sometimes the towns' residences take advantage of them.

### **N. Planning Commission**

- Councilman Margo Digan spoke about two new members on the planning commission. Jim Bell and Greg Brigham are the two new members. Elena, Charles, Tomeka, Aileen and our two new members are on the committee. Councilman Bob Bilicki asked about a kayak launch. Councilman Margo and Aileen said that was one of the goals of the committee. Councilman Glen asked if they were going to use *Roberts Rules of Order* for their meetings. The answer was yes.

### **O. Flood Plain**

- Nothing new to report.

### **P. New Business**

- Councilman Stephen Joseph said he believes the town should move the meals' tax up to what the current meals' tax are. He stated this would be money for the town. Councilman Stephen Joseph said that we could use the money towards payroll. Mayor Fred Janci and Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski said it could not be used for payroll. Councilman Stephen Joseph stated that we raise the tax and decide what to use it for later. Council thought the tax should be raised to 5%. Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski said to put it on the agenda for next month. Councilman Glenn Schagelin and Councilman Stephan Joseph said we need to go to executive session.

Vice Mayor Sandie Puchalski motioned to go to executive session.

Councilman Margo Digan 2<sup>nd</sup>ed.

All agreed.